

REMARKS

Amendments

Applicants have cancelled claims 19-27, 29-32, 34 and 35 without prejudice, and amended claims 28, 33, 39 and 42.

Applicants appreciate the indication that the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO):

- is considering reference 1 identified in the July 29, 2007 IDS;
- withdrew the objection to the oath/declaration;
- withdrew the objections to the drawings and the abstract;
- withdrew the rejections of claims 28 and 32-33 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph and under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (e); and
- indicated that claims 28, 36-38, 41 and 42 are allowed.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 32, 33 and 39 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first and second paragraphs, as allegedly not-enabled and indefinite, and reserve their right to pursue subject matter of such claims in divisional or continuation applications. Applicants continue to maintain that their specification provides a full scope of enablement for those claims, and that persons of ordinary skill in the art would readily understand the metes and bounds of those claims.

Nonetheless, in the interest of expediting prosecution, Applicants cancelled claim 32, amended claim 28 to address a minor informality, amended claims 33 and 39 to make them dependent from claim 28 and in claim 42 added an identifier of the amino acid sequence. These amendments render moot the rejections of claims 32, 33 and 39 and the objection to claim 42 in the Office Action.

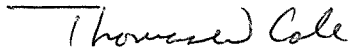
Conclusion

Since all the pending claims are allowable or in condition for allowance, Applicants respectfully request the issuance of a Notice of Allowance and Allowability. In the event any

outstanding issues remain, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner contact their undersigned counsel to resolve such issues in an expeditious manner and place the application in condition for allowance.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees connected with this filing, which may be required, including extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-2478 (039371-20).

Respectfully submitted,



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